

Demand and production of steel

*253. SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement and production of steel in the country at present;

(b) whether the production of steel insufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Production of finished steel in 1990-91 was about 13.4 million tonnes against the assessed demand of about 15.5 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken to increase domestic production of steel include—

Modernisation of steel plants and improved maintenance of plant and equipment for achieving increased productivity;

Monitoring of supply of inputs, particularly coal and power, to the steel plants for ensuring uninterrupted production;

Increase in captive power generation;

Adoption of better technological and manpower discipline in SAIL plants;

Delicensing of the steel sector, with certain conditions where substantial foreign exchange is involved so as to allow establishment of new plants in the private sector.

The domestic availability is supplemented with imports, to the extent possible within the overall constraints of the availability of foreign exchange.

Bifurcation of Cuttack Postal Division in Orissa

*254. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for bifurcation of the existing Cuttack North Postal Division into two separate Postal Divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these two separate Postal Divisions are likely to start functioning independently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for bifurcating Cuttack North Postal Division into two separate Postal Divisions namely, Jajpur and Kendrapara has been received.

(c) It has been decided not to bifurcate Cuttack North Division on considerations of economy and in administrative interest.

[*Translation*]

Return of Indians to Gulf Countries

*255. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL
PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait, Iraq and other Gulf countries after the end of the Gulf war, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the assets left behind by Indians in Gulf countries during the war; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) According

to information available it is estimated that approximately 25,000 Indian nationals have returned to Kuwait. Our nationals who left Iraq have not as yet returned. These are the only two Gulf states from which our nationals had to be evacuated.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 information in respect of loss, damage or injury suffered by Indians in Kuwait and Iraq is in the process of being collected through a form circulated to the affected Indian nationals.

[English]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

*256. SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

SHRI KODIKKUNIL
SURESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the progress made so far with regard to expansion and conversion

of various telephone exchanges into electronic ones in various districts of Kerala, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 1990-91, 8.77 lakh lines (Gross) and 5.52 lakh lines (Net) have been commissioned in the network. In the year 1991-92, plans are to commission 14.4 lakh lines (Gross) and 9.5 lakh lines (Net) switching capacity and 7 lakh lines (Net) connections in the country. In the entire Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-91 to 1994-95) it is proposed to commission 73 lakh lines (Gross) and 59 lakh lines (Net) of switching capacity in the country.

(c) In Kerala 77 numbers of telephone exchanges were expanded during 1990-91 and 4 numbers of telephone exchanges were expanded during the period 1-4-91 to 30-6-91. 104 numbers of telephone exchanges were converted into electronic during 1990-91 and 9 numbers of telephone exchanges were converted during the period 1-4-91 to 30-6-91. District-wise numbers are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

District wise Nos. of Telephone Exchanges, expanded and Converted into Electronic in Kerala State

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	No. of Exchanges Converted into Electronic		No. of Exchanges Expanded	
		1990-91	1-4-91 to 30-6-91	1990-91	1-4-91 to 30-6-91
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Alleppey	6	..	4	..
2.	Calicut	4	..	5	..
3.	Cannanore	5	..	4	..